GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1466
ANSWERED ON:28.11.2000
DISTANCE EDUCATION
SURESH CHANDEL

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have taken steps to promote distance education in the country;

(b) if so, the number of open universities set-up for the purpose so far, State-wise;

(c) whether they are adequate and fulfilling the objectives; and

(d) if not, the new measures proposed to be taken in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) Yes, Sir. The Distance Education Council (DEC) –a statutory body established under the Indira Gandhi National Open University Act, 1985, has been charged with the responsibility of promotion, coordination and maintenance of standards in the distance and open education system. DEC also provides developmental grants to State Open Universities as well as Correspondence Course Institutions in the conventional university system.

(b) At present, there are nine State Open Universities one each in Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Maharashtra, MadhyaPradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, West Bengal, and Uttar Praddesh, besides Indira Gandhi National Open University, having national jurisdiction.

(c)&(d): The demand for distance education programmes has been high and rising. According to the recommendations of Central Advisory Board of Education(CABE) Committee, each major state should have one open University. The DEC has already requested the State Governments to start new State Open Universities.